ons, they will repeder it utterly valueles. I would therefore, that those conditions be stricken som the bill. WESTCOT'!. Mr. Precident, I am opposed to the g out of those words; and, sir, I would no vote for Mr. WESTCOTT. Mr. President, I am opposed to the striking out of those words; and, sir, I would not vote for this bill at all were there not some such conditions operted. My object, as I have before stated, is to have these lands reclaimed, not that they should be given to the State of Florida, but then they may add to the wealth and strength and interest of the whole country. I know very well, sir, that, being a young State, and impoverished by the Scannole war, Florida has not funds of her own to commence and complete this work. I know, still further, that she will not have funds of her own sufficient to defray the expenses of this gisantic scheme in ten years, nor in twenty years. And, sir, I do not hesitate to say, God forbid that she ever should have money enough in her treasury to complete this work, or any more than enough to defray the ordinary expenses of her government; for, whenever she does have a surplus in her treasury, every man, woman, and child in the State will be struggling every man, woman, and child in the State will be struggling to obtain it. I am opposed to either State Governments or the Federal Government accumulating large surpluses in their treasuries; for I believe their purity, in a great measure, de-

treasuries; for I believe their purity, in a great measure, depends upon their having just money enough to get along with; and I think the people of a poor State are more likely to be honest than the inhabitants of a rich one.

But, sir, notwithstanding the inability of Florida to defray the expenses of this work out of her own treasury, I believe that, if she should undertake in good faith to reclaim these lands, plentiful opportunities would be offered, of which she could avail herself, to raise funds sufficient to carry on and complete the work. I do not suppose that the State will percomplete the work. I do not suppose that the State will perform this labor herself. I do not believe that there is a man in the State, or in the whole country, that supposes she will do so. The State will make arrangements with proper per-sons, possessing the requisite skill, energy, and capital, and ther will carry on the work. That is the only way in which it can be done, either in ten or twenty years. It is only pro-posed that, if they do not undertake the work in two years, posed that, if they do not undertake the work in two years, not to give them the land at all. They can commence the not to give them the land at all. They can commence the work within two years, and if they cannot complete it within the specified time—ten years—they can ask for an extension of the time, and Congress can give it to them. But I have no doubt, however, that such arrangements could be made as would ensure the completion of the work within the specified

Besides, there is another condition which may come to the aid of those to whom the task of executing this shall be conaid of those to whom the task of executing this shall be confided. The Seminole Indians reside on a tract of land which is included in the proposed grant, and it is stipulated that they shall not be encroached upon until authority shall be given so to do by the President in writing. If this authority be not given, the work cannot be completed, and must be deterred till the authority shall be received. But I have no fear that the work cannot be completed in ten as well as in fifty wars. till the authority shall be received. But I have no fear that the work cannot be completed in ten as well as in fifty years.

Mr. NILES. Mr. President, I see no great use of limiting the time in which this work shall be commenced. I see no force at all in that limitation. A man can go there and open a trench in one day, and the work is commenced.

In regard to the bill, sir, I wish to say that the principles involved in it are very important. It is stated in the bill that these lands are now, and ever will be, valueless to the United States. But it seems that the cession of them to the State of

States. But it seems that the cession of them to the State of Florida is, some way or other, to render them very valuable. I do not understand this. They may be now of little or no value to the United States, for all that I know, but it seems to me that they are worth as much to the nation at large as to a single State. We have very little data on which to base an estimate of the worth of these lands; but from the description which we have had, it appears that considerable portions of them are not covered with water. These dry lands, it seems to me, may be of some service hereafter.

Well now, sir, what will be the effect of this grant? I

apprehend it will be this. I apprehend that the State will sell all such lands as are now available at such times as they may come into market, and that all the others will remain a they are. The great difficulty attending all measures of this kind is, that we are compelled to art in the dark. That was the difficulty attending our action upon the bill introduced last session giving to the State of Arkansas certain lands lying within her boundaries.

We have no reliable information at all concerning these

Florida lands. We have no information by which we can be governed. The description of the lands, given in the bill, is less full, and probably less accurate than that which might be gleaned from the newspapers of the country. It cannot be relied on to an extent which would warrant us in making it the basis of liquidation, and such a general sweeping grant once made, may deprive the country of a very large and valuable portion of the public domain. No such grant should be made ill after a careful survey of the lands has been made by some officer of the Government, and his report thereon, giving an accurate description of the lands, stating their situation, condition, and extent, and assigning their boundaries, has been published for the use and information of the Government and

people.

It may, perhaps, be good policy to grant away these land that are of little value, but at the same time care should be taken not to grant away lands that are, or may be, valuable hereafter. This bill, it seems to me, would introduce a new principle in legislation. It is on the principle that these lands are without value to the United States, and that by cession to State authority they will be made valuable. But it is said that the State will render them valuable by reclaiming them at a great outlay. We have no guaranty that this will be done. In order to accomplish this object, I think we should have some security on the part of the State that will render the reclamation of these lands certain. As the matter now stands, there is nothing that renders it at all obligatory on the State to fulfil the accomplishment of the work. And they will probable avail themselves of that portion of the lands which is of some value, and leave the rest as they are.

WESTCOTT. It is stated in the bill that every dollar raised from the sale of these lands shall be sacredly appropriated to the completion of the work, and that none of the lands can be sold for less than a dollar

acre until the entire work is completed.

Mr. NILES. I know that the proceeds of the lands are Mr. NILES. I know that the proceeds of the lands are to be applied to educational and other useful purposes. The bill evinces a very proper and laudable object; but take the terms of the paper as it stands, and it does not propose a national object at all. I should have no objection, sir, to grant to States in which such lands lie the privilege of reclaiming them, and allow the State for so doing the privilege of disposing of certain portions of the lands reclaimed, together with pre-emption rights, or something of that kind. If the privilege of reclaiming these lands be indeed so great, I think the State should be satisfied with a mere indemnity, and I have no objection to a practice of that kind. But if these lands be ceded to the State, I take it the rights of the United States will be gone forever. I do not think, therefore, that I can vote for this bill. The question was taken on the amendment of Mr. YULEE,

and it was not agreed to.

Mr. HALE. I would ask the Senator from Florida (Mr. WESTCOTT) if he proposes to make this grant absolute, with-out any condition that the lands are ever to be drained by the

Mr. WESTCOTT. I would respectfully refer the honorable Senator (Mr. Halk) to the bill, which contains nine conditions, one of which is that the State shall, expressly by law, accept these conditions. The State shall, expressly by law, accept these conditions. The State furthermore pledges itself to accept the conditions which render it obligatory upon her to commence the work in two years and complete it in ten years, and if practicable, with the completion of the work, to build a caual for vessels across the peninsula out of the proceeds of the lands reclaimed, and that the canal shall be free to all United States vessels, and for the transportation of mails, troops, or United States property of any kind, forever. And the residue of the avails of the lands are not to go into the State treasury, but to be invested as a permanent and perpetual fund, the interest of which is to be expended for purposes of

ducation in the territory granted.

Mr. HALE. I thought the amendment offered by the enator's colleague (Mr. Yulke) was to strike out these con-

Mr. WESTCOTT. That amendment was rejected.
Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, I move to strike out all of this bill after the enacting clause, and insert a proposition appropriating a certain sum of money to authorize the Secretary of War to have the everglades explored, and a report made to Congress, with a view of showing what action is necessary and these Laboratories. made to Congress, with a view of showing what action is necessary in regard to them. I do this for the purpose of testing
the principle involved in the bill, and to ascertain how far we
are to depart from the usual legislation of Congress on the
subject of granting these lands to the States. Senators will
recollect that we have had propositions from the State of
Arkansas, to grant to it all the swamp lands contained within
its boundaries. And we shall have propositions, no doubt,
from every State in the Union, where there are public lands,
if any one of these bills should pass, to grant all swamp lands if any one of these bills should pass, to grant all swamp lands to the States within the limits of which they are respectively

Now, my object is to test the sense of the Senate as to whether this policy shall be commenced or not, without full information upon the subject. I am perfectly willing, as a member of the Committee on Public Lands, to have all this land explored, at the public expense, by the topographical engineers of the United States, and to have reports made from them, recommending the return of the incorrection which them, recommending the nature of the improvements which ought to be made, and explaining to us the quantity of land which, if the improvements are made, will be salcable, and the value of the land thus salcable, and the expense that will

everglades, gave a commission, in part, to a gentleman by the name of Smith—who had to perform a great many other du-ties, according to the appointment conferred upon him by the Secretary, in relation to the lands in that quarter of the country ; but in addition to these duties, he was particularly requested to make some examination in regard to the practica-bility of draining these everglades. Mr. Smith has made a very long report upon that subject,

and I must say that, without a very accurate ascertainment of the facts, he has taken for granted a number of things. His reasonings upon the subject are very prettily made out, sup-posing the facts to be as he has stated them. I will read to the Senate some of these statements, in order that Senators may consider what is here presented. Mr. Smith says: "To re-claim the everglades and the Atseenahoofa and Halpatiokee swamps, and the lowlands on the margin of the Kissime ri-*swamps, and the towlands on the margin of the Kissime river and its tributaries, and the other rivers emptying into
Lake Okeechobee, this lake must be tapped by such canals
sunning into the Caloosahatchee, on the one side and the
Locahachee or San Lucia, or both, on the other, and cuts
must also be made from the streams on both sides of the
peninsula into the glades. Besides, after the height of the
waters in the glades should be decreased, even as much as
waters in the glades should be decreased, even as much as
five feet, there will probably be a necessity for several drains.

Mr. WESTCOTT. It is true, as stated by the Senator
for several drains.

Now, sir, as to the depth of these canals, which are to be thus carried into Okechobes Lake, here is the most definite tion have we got? by reading these papers. This is a statement made by Mr. J. McClelland, captain of the tapographical engineers. He does not make the statement from any examination or exploration made by himself, but he bases the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement from the Commissioner of the Land Office; thirdly, from the makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement was a statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d arrillow at the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton which he makes upon which he makes upon which which he makes upon which he was a statement McClelland, captain of the topographical engineers. He does not make the statement from any examination or exploration made by himself, but he bases the statement which he makes upon what Capt. J. R. Vinton, 3d artillery, stated to him. Here is what Capt. Vinton told Capt. McClelland, of the topographical engineers. Capt. McClelland says: "In the course of the year 1840 or 1841, I was informed by the latt. J. R. Vinton, 3d artillery, that he had run a line of levels"—so it appears from this teat the instruments had actually been applied to the surface of the ground—"from the Atlantic ocean to the glades, and found their elevation above it from ten the commissioner of the Land Office; thirdly, from the Secretary of the Treasury; fourthly, from the Secretary of the Treasury; fourthly, from the lands with the situation of the lands, from Col. Harney, from Gen. Gadsden, and others, who traversed that country thirty years ago, all of them coinciding in the statements that less lands are perfectly worthless to the Government, and if surveyed would not pay the cost of surveying. Then, sir, with all the information necessary to be obtained by the Senator from Kentucky—pulses Congress are ocean to the glades, and found their elevation above it from ten to fifteen feet. This was taken at Fort Dallas, at the mouth of the Miami river, which empties into Biscayno bay.

the Miami river, which emplies into Biscayno bay."

According to this information, it will be necessary to dig a canal through the rim, which, I am informed, surrounds the everglades, and by means of this canal to connect the waters in the basin with the waters of the ocean, for the purpose of draining them off; and, according to the information here draining them off; and, according to the information here given, this canal, to be efficient in draining the everglades,

must be from ten to fifteen feet deep.

Well, now, what the length of this canal is we are uninformed. What is the position to be secured for that canal? We are uninformed. What will be the expense? As that depends upon the length, position, and depth, we are uninformed.

Mr. WESTCOTT. Will the Senator permit me to correct him? His mistake evidently arises from his want of knowledge upon the subject. Had he read the next sentence knowledge upon the subject. Had he read the next sentence of Captain McClelland's letter, he would not have fallen into the error which he now labors under. Canals are contemplated from Lake Okechobee, which is nearly one hundred miles above the point where this level was taken by Captain Vinton. The drains from the rim, to which the gentleman vinton. The drains from the rim, to which the gentleman purpose except draining off the water in the rim, it is not necessary, nor is it stated to be necessary in the report, that these small drains should be ten or twelve feet deep; but the canals from Lake Okechobee, to the Atlantic on the est, and our corps of tongraphical engineers. I am fortunate in the rim canals from Lake Okechobee, which is nearly one hundred in the next stated to be necessary in the report, that these small drains should be ten or twelve feet deep; but the canals from Lake Okechobee, which is nearly one hundred in the new States. But, as I said on a former dot of land in the new States. But, as I said on a former day of the other objections besides these constitutional objections. Of all methods under heaven that can be devised for making public improvements of this character, those undertaken by the General Government are always the most expensive and the most likely to be inefficacious when effected. Of all public improvements, those devised, carried on, and comnecessary, nor is it stated to be necessary in the report, that the public improvements of this character, those undertaken by the General Government are always the most expensive and the most likely to be inefficacious when effected. Of all public improvements, those devised, carried on, and comnecessary, nor is it stated to be necessary in the report, that the most likely to be inefficacious when effected. Of all methods under heaven that can be devised for making public improvements of this character, those undertaken by the General Government are laways the most expensive and the most likely to be inefficacious when effected. to the Gulf of Mexico on the west side, are to be from twelve to fifteen in depth. The height of that lake is considerably more than that of the rim. I would remind the honorable Senator that if he would look at the previous part of the letter just read, and at the letter from Col. Long, of the topo-graphical engineers, he would find that the length of one of these canals would be twelve miles, and the length of the You will find that all sorts of expenditures are accumulated other from ten to eighteen miles.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, if my friend had beard me out, he would have had no cause to complain. I intended to read the clause to which he has called my attention. But that clause only makes the matter worse. I am speaking now about the canals which must be deg in order to get into the basin, and before you get to Lake Okechobee, a hundred miles beyond that, I understand. If gentlemen will take the trouble to lock at the map, as I have done, they will find that the rim of this basin is not more than some ten or fifteen miles from the Atlantic—the Gulf Stream. Well, sir, you have to make these canals in order to get into the basin.

And when you get over there, what is to be done? Why, says the gentleman, (and this is stated by Mr. McCielland as coming from Capt. Vinton.) this lake, when you get into the rim, is considerably higher. How much higher we do not know. Well, then, it may become necessary to extend your canals fifty or a hundred miles further. Concerning the obstructions, if any, the depth, or the length, we are left en-tirely in the dark. Instead of the clause which the honorable (Mr. WESTCOTT) read, it is no objection to my argument, but only makes it so much the stronger.

Sir, my objection to the whole bill lies a little beyond this

I do not know that any thing that I can say will arrest the practice of Congress, of which I complain, in regard to the administration of the public lands. I have been for a long time in a minority upon this subject. I do not know but that I shall remain till the end of my official life here in a minority. I am anxious to make the attempt now, to see if the policy of the Government can be changed. My wish in reference to this subject, if it can be done, is to allow the General Government to retain its jurisdiction and control of this great fund, (the public lands,) not only in Florida and in Arkansas, but Louisiana and all other States where these drains are to be made. For the purpose of saving the public land from its preit sell the lands and allow every State in this Union to participate in the distribution of the proceeds in an equal interest.

While I avow this to be my policy, and while I declare that it has always been my policy, yet I frankly confess that if the Government of the United States will not do this, if the Government of the United States will not do this, if the Government will not take hold of these swamps and lakes, sooner than that the country should remain in its awarest arrowages.

The carred marble, no elegant columns, no superb gilding, not this mendment of mine does not propose now to distribute the proceeds of the public lands. If my amendment be adopted it does not touch that question. All that it proposes to accomplish. Any man can dig a ditch. Sir, I should be opposed to the Government undertaking it, because I do not believe to two to the proceeds of the public lands. Their report must be minute in regard to the qualities and the description of the contrary, all that we want is plain old-fashioned work, such as the most unskilled can accomplish. All that it proposes to accomplish. Any man can dig a ditch. Sir, I should be opposed to the Government undertaking it, because I do not believe to two town possess. All that my amendment be adopted it does not touch that question. All that it proposes to accomplish. All that my amendment be adopted it does not touch that question. All that it proposes to accomplish. Any man can dig a ditch. Sir, I should be opposed to the federal Government undertaking it, because I do not believe to touch that question. All that my amendment be adopted it does not touch that question. All that it proposes to accomplish. Any man can dig a ditch. Sir, I should be opposed to the federal Government with the contrary, all that we want is plain to the public lands. The proving the condition of the public lands. The proving the condition o vernment will not take hold of these swamps and lakes, sooner than that the country should remain in its present unproductive condition—for I would not play the policy of the dog in the manger—I would be in favor of the States draining these lands and appropriating such as are now valueless to some useful purpose. I frankly confess that, if my policy is overruled, I will go with the Senator from Florida, (Mr. Westcott;) I will go with the Senator from Arkansas, (Mr. Bonland;) I will join my friend from Louisiana, (Mr. Jonnson;) I will join with every one to make something beneficial for the States out of this now mealess land.

| Control | Twill go with the Senator from Arkansas, (Mr. Bon| Laxin) | I will join my triend from Louisians, (Mr. Bon| Laxin | La

port, "The maximum of probable expenditure is \$300,000. I presume, under any circumstances creating the necessity of an augmentation of this amount, that \$500,000 would, beyond question, defray all outlay necessary for the successful accomplishment of the work." From \$300,000 to \$500,000 is a very wide gap—x gap of almost a hundred per cent. If it costs only \$300,000 to reclaim this fine and valuable country in the centre of Florida, which, if it can be reclaimed, will become one of the finest orange districts in the world—if, indeed, it cannot be used for sugar and other planting purpeses—I do not hesitate in saying that the value of that country will compensate for the expenditure: I was about to say try will compensate for the expenditure; I was about to say a hundred fold—perhaps it will not reach so high as that—but

I may be safe in saying fifty fold.

Whether it can or cannot be done at that expense, we have

the General Government to accomplish the work? One, two, or three years, at the furthest; whereas, if it is to be accomplished by the State, according to the provisions of this bill, if plished by the State, according to the provisions of this bill, if they commence it within two years, you need not expect, especially under the condition of the finances of the State, mentioned by the other gentleman from Florida, (Mr. Yules,)

Schatter from Kentucky.

Schatter from Kentucky.

Mr. WESTCOTT. I will make one remark, which I under the condition of the finances of the State, according to the provisions of this bill, if Schatter from Kentucky.

Mr. WESTCOTT. I will make one remark, which I under the condition of the finances of the State, according to the provisions of this bill, if Schatter from Kentucky.

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In the condition of the Government of the Government of the Government of the Government of the finances of the State, according to the provisions of this bill, if Schatter from Kentucky.

In the condition of the formation of the Government of the

waters in the glades should be decreased, even as much as five feet, there will probably be a necessity for several drains through the glades and those swamps, by which the waters accumulating from the rains may be conducted to the ocean or gulf." This is Mr. Smith's plan for draining the everglades.

Now, sir, as to the depth of these canals, which are to be thus carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite to procure the carried into Okechobee Lake, here is the most definite the carried into Okechob

Congress, unless—and I will at once meet the question propounded by the Senator from Kentucky—unless Congress are at once disposed to enter upon a system of public improvement, why should we refuse to put it in the power of the State to bring these lands into an available condition? Is Congress prepared to do it? That is the question, if I mistake not, which the Senator from Kentucky propounds to the Senate. Is Congress prepared to enter upon the business of improvement with regard to these lands, as well as those tracts which are overflowed by the Mississippi and its tributaries, and which can only be redeemed by the construction of canals or embankments? The Senator says that there is no obstacle to these improvements being made by the General Government.

Mr. President, there are some who entertain constitutional objections as to the power of Congress to improve either private or public lands, and to enhance their value by making public improvements within the States; for the power

ing public improvements within the States; for the power would be abused as long as the Federal Government owned a our corps of topographical engineers. I am fortunate in being acquainted with several of them, whom I regard as my most valued friends. Among them are the most intelligent persons to be found in this or in any country. But look at the public works that have been conducted by this Government, upon you. You will find that it takes a year to prepare to enter upon the work; another year to make the necessary re-connoisances and surveys; another year to put the result of the calculations in proper form, in printed statements and maps; another year to bring the matter before Congress; anther year or two to have it criticised and canvassed; and some three or four years after that to get an act passed authorizing

the commencement of the work.

This is the way in which improvements, undertaken and carried on by the Federal Government, are managed where the persons carrying on the works are not interested in their completion. The delays are innumerable, the expense almost incredible. I would inquire of the Senators from Arkansas how long the Federal Government, have been endeavoring to now long the rederal Government have been endeavoring to get the raft removed from Red river? Ten or twelve years, I believe. Sir, I happened accidentally to look at debates in Congress when that work was first proposed, and I remember that we were assured that it could be completed in eighteen A SENATOR. The work was completed.

Mr. WESTCOTT. It was, after a fashion, but it filled

up again. In 1838 a work was undertaken in Florida. It cost some seven or eight hundred thousand dollars, and the work is now not worth a single dollar. And so with all public works where the persons employed are not interested in the work being well done. So with all public works. Ex-cept those of a peculiarly scientific character, the army officers are the worst persons to be employed on them. They are gallant in warfare, but they know very little of other matters. There are fewer practical men among them than among our civil engineers throughout the country; and is not such a work as belongs properly to them. We do not expect to construct this work in very superior style; it requires would be whenever the officers became tired of remaining there among the mosquitoes and the frogs, it would not be more than half done as it should be. It would be executed

infinitely better by officers appointed by the State, who would be interested in having it done effectually.

As I before said, if the State accepts this grant, there will be no possibility of misapplying the proceeds, for every sur-plus dollar must go for the support of education within the region thus ceded and reclaimed.

While up I will answer one objection, or rather misstate-ment, that was made by the Scustor from Connecticut. He

For the purpose, sir, of testing the views of Senators on the subject, I will now offer my amendment. It is simply, sir, to appropriate — dollars, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by the Secretary of War, in exploring the everglades in Florida, with a view to ascertain the practicability of draining the same, and that he cause a report to be made at the next seesion of Congress, or as soon thereafter as may be practicable.

Mr. WESTCOTT. It is true, as stated by the Senator from Kentucky, that we have had no topographical survey made with the view of ascertaining the precise estimate of the amount necessary to be appropriated to effect the draining of the everglades, and to make the proposed canal. That is so; but glades, and to make the proposed canal. That is so; but a proposed to the proposed canal or otherwise draining the land with a view to the prospective completion of the work. Thus, ject directly by opening a canal or otherwise draining the land with a view to the prospective completion of the work. Thus, ject directly by opening a canal or otherwise draining the land with a view to the prospective completion of the work. Thus my honorable friend will see that he is under a mistake in re gard to the interest of the purchaser, and in regard to the supposed want of security.

Mr. DOWNS. The chief object of the amendment, as I

understand it, is to have an examination made in order to as-certain the value of the land. It happens that in this case, though it is a rare thing, there is a report on the subject, and during a tedious passage in low water upon the Mississippi I read it from beginning to end. It contains sufficient to satisfy my mind, though perhaps not sufficient to satisfy every Senator, that the bill ought to pass. It is true, we do not know what may be the value of these lands hereafter, but we know this that the lands proceeded the sended the but we know this, that the lands proposed to be ceded, the ever-glades, are now totally worthless to the United States. The fact mentioned by the gentleman from Florida, that a large portion of the land has been surveyed, and that out of more than a million of acres not more than one hundred and thirtysix have been sold, is sufficient to prove that they are totally worthless. Now, when this fact is ascertained, I think that, in regard to the lands in Florida, as in regard to those in every other State, the Government of the United States ought not to hesitate a moment. It is a feeling which is very prevalent in all the new States, that the holding over for a great length of time of the multiple description.

all the new States, that the holding over for a great length of time of the public domain in those new States is a diminution of the power and resources of those States.

The question has sometimes been raised whether the Government of the United States could hold the public land unsold in this way at all. Of its power to do so I have no doubt, but all admit that it is an interference with the authority and resources of a State to hold large bodies of public land within the country and the state of a state to hold large bodies of public land within the country and the state of a state to hold large bodies of public land within the country and the state of a state to hold large bodies of public land within the country and the state of th sold in this way at all. Of its power to do so I have no doubt, but all admit that it is an interference with the authority and resources of a State to hold large bodies of public land within it which are not available either for the purposes of the General Government or for the use of the State. Now, here is a very large portion of territory, not less than one-eighth of the State of Florida, that is totally worthless both to that State and the General Government. The State thinks that she can make these lands available; that she can, instead of permitting there should be a limit to that time. I should be glad to know what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years on the white should be a limit to that time. I should be glad to know what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length of time would be necessary. It is forty-five years or the same what length or the same white same what length or the same what length or the same what them to remain a desert where a human being can scarcely penetrate either by land or by water, make them available. think, then, it is one of those cases in which, the fact which have sated being satisfactorily ascertained, there ought to be no hesitation in ceding the land to the State even without conditions. But the gentleman from Kentucky thinks that a better system might be adopted, and that (I believe his amendbetter system might be adopted, and that (I believe his amendment embraces this proposition) the improvement should be made by the United States Government, and that it is important as a part of the system that the most that can be made from the lands should be made by the Government of the United States, and that the proceeds should be distributed among the several States. These are his ideas, if I rightly understood the gentleman's remarks. Now, I cannot concur in opinion with him. Apart from the general principle that the ted States, and that the proceeds should be distributed among

claimed at her own expense. It is certainly neither fair nor just nor equal towards the State of Louisiana, where the value of her lands have been immensely increased by her own resources, that that increased value should be made a common fund to be distributed among the States. A large portion of the illuvial land in the State of Mississippi has reclaimed by individuals. Are we to take those improvements or their value and make it a common fund to be distri-buted? I think not. I do not think it would be just or reabuted? I think not. I do not think it would be just or rea-boundly, and I trust it will never be attempted to be carried into effect. When such attempt is made, if I should have the honor of having a seat here, I shall certainly insist that Lou-honor of having a seat here. isiana and the other States where those improvements have been made shall first be reimbursed. But a more equitable, the time in which the lands are to be disposed of, and that the reasonable, and proper course is, in accordance with the pre-position contained in this bill, and one submitted by a Senator from Arkansas at the last session, (which I hope will come up again,) is to make something of these lands if you can, and to provide that they shall remain no longer than is absoand to provide that they shall remain no longer than is assolutely necessary in a condition in which they are utterly unprofitable to the State or to the General Government. If the Senator from Kentucky continues to press his motion I shall feel it my duty to vote against the amendment.

feel it my duty to vote against the amendment.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I will only remark that I did not tration of the public lands which now prevails. But is out of the question. complish is detectan information which I think we do not low possess. All that my amendment seeks to do is to emply the officers of the topographical corps in obtaining for us the information that we desire; that is all; and the simple queston upon the amendment is, whether the Senate prefers by a little delay to get more information, or to give away at accessed million eight hundred thousand acres of land.
Mr. WESTCOTT. Seven million eight hundred thou

sand acres of land and water. Four million three hundred sanc acres of and and waver. Four minion three nundred thousand acres of it is altogether valueless.

Nr. UNDERWOOD. The Commissioner of the General

Land Office, in his report to the Secretary of the Treasury, states as follows:

fail of completing the work within the period assigned, what redress has the Government of the United States' What means of enforcing the future execution of the work for which those public lands were ceded? Settlers will have bought them and paid for them in good faith; they cannot do disturbed in consequence of any condition appended to the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the State, be must excuse me if I have more confidence bought them and paid for them in good faith; they cannot be disturbed in consequence of any condition appended to the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the grant for the grant for the grant for the grant, for the provisions of this act recognise the right of the which limits are also the grant for the grant for

gether prefer, upon the information which we now have in gards this Government attempting to improve those lands, regard to these lands, adopting the course suggested by the consider it utterly out of the question. There has not been a mentioned by the other gentleman from Florida, (Mr. Yulka,) the completion of the work for some ten or fifteen years at the least. In that state of things, I ask my friend from Florida (Mr. Westcorr) it he can get the General Government to undertake this work, upon the report of the topographical engineers, will it not be sooner done? Will not your State settle faster, and become improved more rapidly, by the plan of operations I have suggested, than in the manner which the bill provides?

For the purpose, sir, of testing the views of Senators on the subject. I will be an anomaly. But it is not one acre in the whole should comprise the missapprenension of the inspectation. He seems to think that the welve years ago, and strong arguments used to induce Continue of the foundation of the purpose of reclaiming some of the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the funds derived from the disposal of these lands according to the

ject directly by opening a canal or otherwise draining the land for the purpose of making the whole so much the more valua-ble. That is the principle running through all these cases. Mr. JOHNSON. The works to which the honorable Se-

nator alludes are works performed by the States, not by th General Government. It is true that making these donations for these purposes, will have the effect of rendering the re mainder of the lands more valuable, but that was not the ob ject. The object was to enable the State to perform a great work—a work important not only to the State itself, but to the whole nation. This is the purpose for which these grant were made.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Will the Senator pardon me

The principle upon which the grants were made was, as I have stated, with reference to one side of the House. If I understand the matter correctly, the Democratic members put it upon the ground that it tended to make the remaining lands so much the more valuable, while the other party contended for the making of the improvement directly by the General Government; and my argument was to show the if a cortion Government; and my argument was to show that if a portion might be granted for the purpose of making the remainder more valuable, the General Government might, by undertaking the work, make the whole valuable.

Mr. JOHNSON. A question of that sort arose after the

acquisition of Louisiana; and in a discussion it was contended by an honorable Senator from Virginia and others that it was incompatible with the interests of the other States. There were complaints from different States against the United States these lands a large outlay in the construction of levees and otherwise would be required. Some of them never have been reclaimed. Congress has been appealed to, year after year, to make the necessary works to reclaim them, or else to cede them to the States. But they have uniformly refused to do either. either. Proposition after proposition has been made to this Government to take measures for rendering these lands avail-

ing a system of internal improvement within the limits of the States; and I concur entirely with the Senator from Mississtood the gentleman's remarks. Now, I cannot concur in opinion with him. Apart from the general principle that the United States Government has no right to make improvements such as these, it would be unequal and unjust to make ments such as these, it would be unequal and unjust to make improvements at the common expense.

In the States in the States. In the State of Mississippi certain portions have been reclaimed by individuals, in consequence of which the General Government has already derived considerable benefit; yet there are still remittee was appointed, with the distinguished Senator from South Carolina at its head; a very lengthy report was made, Government is now bound to adopt some measure to reclaim the lands or else yield them to the States. The resources of almost uninhabitable by reason of the unhealthiness produced

with standing water; it is somewhat different from swam land, but it may possibly be reclaimed by great outlay. allude to my policy in reference to the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands as having an immediate
bearing upon this bill or upon the adoption or rejection of my
ameniment. I stated the policy, to be sure, to which I was
attacted, to show that I wanted to get rid of the system of the

article of the proposition which the gentleman from Kentucky had suggested, that the Government of the United States ought to undertake the work of improvement, which I am perfectly satisfied

> port upon the character of all public lands. Their report must be minute in regard to the qualities and the description of the public lands. These officers belong to the General Land Office. These officers are employed in examining the public lands and surveying them and in making reports. These are the officers who are able to give us all the information that we want upon the subject. The topographical corps (I say it with great deference to the honorable Senator from Kentucky) is not the appropriate corps for doing business of this kind. It was never created for this kind of business; it has never been employed in this kind of business; and if that corps should be so employed it would be taken away from its appropriate duties and set to do the duties of other officers. If we need any information, then, the place to look for it is through the General Land Office and through the reports of the surveyors

Whether it can or cannot be done at that expense, we have a the selection of the bill is as follows:

Whether it can or cannot be done at that expense, we have the strength of the selection of the bill is as follows:

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Whether it can or cannot be done at that expense, we have the same in our employ officers the same in which they feel that the same in which they feel the life and thus sale state of the United States shall enter the same in which they feel the same in which they feel that the same in which they feel the same in writing, no certain t

Now, sir, the Screetary of the Treasury, in relation to these outlay of \$300,000, or even \$500,000, how long will it take guarded the bill might be in respect to its provisions, I alto- other States, I wish to make a single remark. As far as re- ing whatever is useful, and in rendering valuable, if po whatever is not so originally; and, being upon the spot, they are capable of regulating the details and of superintending those who are engaged in the work. The State Governments are the proper parties to undertake matters of that kind. are the proper parties to undertake matters of that kind. I am, therefore, utterly opposed to employing any officers to make any further explorations here, and part cularly opposed to employing the corps of topographical engineers, for the reason I have given. The information is to be obtained through the Land Office. We have already every thing that it is necessary for us to know. We have the official information through the proper channel, and, besides that, we all have a general knowledge of the subject from our reading and experience, that here is a tract of country consisting of what are called everglades, which is a harbor for pestilential animals, a region that is wholly useless to the Federal Government.

reence, that here is a tract of country consisting of what are called everglades, which is a harbor for pestilential animals, a region that is wholly useless to the Federal Government. I think we have all the information that we can require; we have sufficient, at all events, to convince us that it will be the interest of the Federal Government, as well as of the people of Florida, that we should, as soon as possible, put those lands in a condition in which they may be useful. It is a large region of country, running far down to the extremity of the peninsula, a point that requires protection and defence; the population of that country requires the means of communication through it, and I think we should be making a most beneficial disposition of all that peninsula if we could pass it off to the State Government, which would bring it under the dominion of man, which would put people upon it, which would make roads through it, and make it valuable and more easily traversable for military purposes. Upon national considerations, then, as well as upon considerations which apply to the State, I think it important that we should pass this bill.

Mr. BREESE. As I reported this bill, it may be reasonably expected that I should say a few words in regard to the views entertained by the committee; and first, I must be parmitted to observe that the committee; and first, I must be parmitted to observe that the committee and first, I must be parmitted to observe that the committee bestowed much attention upon the subject, and sought all the information that they could gather, in order that they might have as clear a knowledge of the facts as they could obtain.

Mr. BUTLER. I hope the gentleman will give way for the purpose of going into Executive session.

Mr. WESTCOTT. If the bill will come up for consider

the purpose of going into Executive session.

Mr. WESTCOTT. If the bill will come up for consider ration to-morrow, I have no objection that it should be defer-red; but I am exceedingly anxious that it should encounter no unnecessary delay.

The further consideration of the bill was postponed until to

orrow; and, On motion by Mr. BUTLER, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business, and, after a short time so engaged, adjourned.

This day was spent by the House of Representatives in the consideration of private business.

TEA IN THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editors of the Courier and Enquirer:
"What are the Planters of the United States to do ?" This was the caption of an article which recently appeared in your paper, capied, I believe, from a Southern newspaper. I do not intend to find one syllable of fault with the article or the suggestions contained in it. On the contrary, I think them well-timed and extremely judicious. Planting cotton for the depressed and almost ruinous returns which have recently been realized, one might suppose, would cause it to be abandoned, to a very large extent, without hesitation. And I have no doubt it would be were it not for the difficulty of furnishing employment for labor which promised better returns.

It therefore behooves our friends of the South to cast about without delay, and earnestly put in requisition their best energies for the discovery of new products from the soil and new occupations for labor, the rates of compensation for which may be beyond the control of the British monetary system.

My object, Mr. Editor, is to introduce to their kind attentions.

tion and fostering care my friend, the Hon. Junius Smira, who is now on his way to South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama, engaged in an enterprise which, to say the least of it, is novel, and cannot be otherwise than extremely interesting to the owners of the soil in those States, as its favorable result furnishes the desideratum so much to be desired.

Mr. Smith, whilst abroad, has devoted some years of his

maining extensive tracts of country that are overflowed and rendered uninhabitable, and other portions rendered so unhealthy that the persons living there are obliged to absent themselves for a part of the year, but whenever the subject has been brought up before Congress it has been put off. Three or four years ago a bill was brought in and discussed; the Departments were called upon for information; a select committee was appointed, with the distinguished Senator from South Carolina at its head; a very lengthy report was made. result cannot prove fallacious, he takes measures to obtain from the East seeds for an experiment on a larger scale. These seeds, amounting to one hundred and fifty pounds, with five hundred plants, he has recently received, and, though approaching three score years, he has started with all the zeal and spirit of a young man to locate his tea plantation in the most favorable spot. We wish him success with our whole heart, and commend him to our friends at the South as

When we take into consideration the fact that the cotton plant is not indigenous to the soil of any of the States, that the early proposition to transplant it was viewed with some distrust as to its practicability, and entirely so in regard to its profitable culture, and compare these with its history, we shall not be inclined hastily to pronounce the enterprise of Mr. Smith as chimerical. We are gratified to be able to say that he has the confidence of the members of the American Institute, and particularly those who are eminently distinguished for their success in practical horticulture.

The Czzr of Russia boasts that he treats his guests to the best cup of tea in Europe, and it is undoubtedly true, because it comes to him overland, free from the manipulations which the Chinese deem necessary to enable the article to encounter the Chinese deem necessary to enable the article to encounter
the long sea voyage, which measurably destroys its aroma and
materially enhances its cost. These Mr. Smith shows to be
unnecessary. Since steam navigation puts us within ten
days' sail of Europe, it is not improbable that we may yet furnish their tables with tea superior to that of the Czar, with
bunches of the plant in blossom, to aid in imparting an enchanting fragrance to their saloons.

Very respectfully, yours,

ADONIRAM CHANDLER.

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

A letter has been received by ELLIOTT CRESSON, Esq. of A letter has been received by ELLIOTT CRESSON, Esq. of Philadelphia, from Gerard Raleton, dated London, No-vember 24, conveying intelligence of the conclusion of a treaty of amity and commerce on terms of perfect reciprocity between the republic of Liberia and the British Government. Presi-dent Roberts, having successfully negotiated the recognition of the Republic and the conclusion of this treaty, was to sail for home on the 2d instant in a British sloop-of-war specially

offered to him.

The most important news, however, contained in the letter, is the announcement that Lord PALNERSTON, on behalf of Great Britain, had nearly concluded an arrangement to furnish President Roberts with £2,000 to purchase all the Liberis, where the slave trade is carried on extensively—the President pledging himself that the slave trade shall be forever abolished from the whole line of coast, from the furthest extremity of Liberia (east and south) to the confines of British colony of Sierra Leone.—Phil. Bulletin.

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 17. The Park Theatre is burnt; the glory of "old Drury" has departed. Last night, a little alter six o'clock, while the establishment was being lighted up for the performances of the evening, smoke was seen issuing from windows in the rear, and in a few minutes the whole building was enveloped in flames, and beyond the power of Croton to stop them, though it is said that in half an hour not less than forty streams of

water were in full play upon the premises.

I have just been walking round to look at the ruins. In a room adjoining the rear of the building was collected quite a group of persons of both sexes, who had been connected with the establishment. They looked sad and distressed. It was not a mimic tragedy now in which they were actors, but one in real life, and every novice could act his part well and naturally. With great earnestness they were inqui ing into each other's losses, and examining damaged fragments of wardrobes, &c., which had been hastily thrown into the muddy.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19, 1848. The Cholera excitement here has almost curriely ceased.
The few cases at Staten Island among the passengers of the New York continue to be daily reported, but attract little more attention than the daily reports of the rise and fall of "fancy stocks" in Wall street. Sunday's report was four cases and one death; yesterday five cases and two deaths; and to-day two cases and two deaths. About half the passengers who escaped from the hospital on Friday night have voluntarily returned, glad to get back to their old quarters. The poor fellow who was carried back in the ferry boat on Saturday morning sick with the cholera died in about three

Touching that California e nflagration, some little attempts Touching that California e nilagration, some little atempts are manifested in this quarter to check it by setting back fires. They say there is gold found in Haverstraw, about forty miles up the North river. And at Sing Sing, on the east side of the river, opposive Haverstraw, there is a silver mine, and evidence is produced to show that it was profitably worked before the Revolution under British authority, and continued to be worked till the battle of Bunker Hill. These stories, however well authenticated, can have no material effect; that California fire has "got the upper hand," and must continue to burn while the fuel lasts. It is still the great subject of interest here among all classes; it is in every body's head, and on every body's tongue, and new companies are still form-